



CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing? How were your Christmas and New Year holidays?

SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 12:1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.' 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people, Israel." 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What signs have you recognized in your own life that you believe were placed by God to guide you toward deeper faith?
- Are there moments in your life where you experienced a quiet or subtle God-sign that you almost missed? What might that sign have been telling you?
- How do you typically respond when you feel a "God-sign" leading you toward something new or challenging? Are you more like the wise men, eager to follow, or like Herod, resisting because of fear or control?
- What are some of the "deserts" or obstacles in your life that you feel God might be calling you to cross? Are you willing to follow God's lead even when the way seems uncertain or difficult?
- In what areas of your life do you struggle to let go of control or comfort in order to follow where God is leading? Talk about how P.A.T.H. may help you.

SHARE

J. K. Rowling of the Harry Potter series gave a perfect description of what it is to have an epiphany: "There's nothing better when something comes and hits you and you think 'YES!'"

Share with one another a time in your life when you experienced a 'light bulb' moment regarding your relationship with God. A time that something was made clear to you about Jesus, faith and/or your place in the community of faith.